

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 NEA-10

STR-08 CEA-02 CIEP-02 RSR-01 /171 W

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R 020845Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, XB, US

SUBJ: THE RICE SITUATION IN ASIA

REF: A. STATE 145370; B. TOKYO 9822

SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 2 TAKANO, DEPUTY HEAD, REGIONAL POL-
ICY DIVISION, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF, GAVE EMBASSY
GOJ REACTION TO INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL A. END
SUMMARY.

1. GOJ AGREES WITH US PROJECTION OF WORLDWIDE RICE
SITUATION GIVEN PARA 2 REFTEL.

2. GOJ COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ESTIMATES, WHERE DIFFERENT
FROM USG ESTIMATES, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) BANGLADESH: IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR CY 1973 IS
2,500,000 TONS. IMPORT REQUIREMENT FROM NOW
TO END OF CY 1973 IS 800,000 TONS, ACCORDING TO BANGLADESH
GOVERNMENT AND 250,000 TONS ACCORDING TO UN (AGENCY NOT
SPECIFIED).

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(B) INDIA: ESTIMATE OF 1 MILLION TONS SEEMS HIGH,

BUT PERHAPS IT INCLUDES REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODS OTHER THAN RICE. GOJ ESTIMATES INDIA'S RICE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AT 500,000 TONS FOR CY 1973.

(C) INDONESIA: CY 1973 REQUIREMENT OVER 1,000,000 TONS, OF WHICH 400,000 TONS REQUIRED FROM NOW UNTIL END OF YEAR.

(D) KOREA: IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR CY 1973 IS 200,000 TONS.

(E) LAOS: IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR CY 1973 IS 50-60,000 TONS.

(F) PAKISTAN: RICE PRODUCTION FOR CY 1973 IS ESTIMATED AT 800,000 TONS. GOJ ASSUMES USG FIGURES CONTAINED REFTEL A WERE AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT. BEFORE CREATION OF BANGLADESH, WEST PAKISTAN ANNUALLY SHIPPED ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF RICE TO EAST PAKISTAN. THUS, PAKISTAN (FORMERLY WEST PAKISTAN) MUST NOW HAVE AT LEAST 400,000 TONS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

(G) THAILAND: IN ADDITION TO EXPORTS THUS FAR IN CY 1973 OF 640,000 TONS, THAILAND EXPECTED TO EXPORT A FURTHER 160,000 TONS, THUS TOTAL EXPORTS FOR CY 1973 WILL BE 800,000 TONS.

3. TAKANO AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR, AND NOTED USEFULNESS OF, USG FIGURES, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTINUING EXCHANGES IN FUTURE.
SHOESMITH

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